

# PEACEFUL TRANSITIONS IN POWER

Embassy of the United States of America

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## APA YANG TERJADI SETELAH PEMILU

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Ketika penghitungan suara masih terus berlangsung pada 4 November 2008, kedua kandidat yang memimpin dalam pertarungan kursi kepresidenan Amerika Serikat, memainkan peranan masing-masing dalam masa-masa akhir drama politik. Yang pertama memberikan pidato adalah kandidat yang kalah, John McCain.

Pidato kekalahan merupakan retorika yang mengedepankan waktu : "Teman-temanku, kita telah tiba pada penghujung perjalanan panjang. Rakyat Amerika telah bicara, dan mereka telah berbicara secara jelas. Beberapa saat yang lalu, saya mendapat kehormatan untuk menelepon Senator Barack Obama untuk memberikan selamat kepadanya... atas terpilihnya dia menjadi presiden berikutnya dari negara yang kami berdua cintai ini. Senator dan saya mempunyai berbagai perbedaan pandangan dan telah beradu argumen mengenai semua perbedaan itu, dan dia telah memenangkannya. Tidak dapat dipungkiri perbedaan-perbedaan itu akan tetap ada. Masa ini adalah saat yang sulit bagi negara kita dan malam ini saya berikrar kepadanya bahwa saya akan



Presiden Barack Obama, kiri, dan mantan Presiden George W. Bush menyanyikan lagu kebangsaan setelah Obama disumpah pada 20 January 2009. ©AP Photo.

memberikan seluruh wewenang dan kekuasaan yang saya miliki untuk membantu dia memimpin kita dalam melewati berbagai tantangan yang kita hadapi."

Dalam pidato kemenangannya, Barack Obama memberikan pidato yang menekankan "bahwa kita tidak pernah hanya sekedar sekumpulan individu atau sekumpulan negara bagian merah (merepresentasikan Partai Republik) dan negara bagian biru (merepresentasikan Partai Demokrat). Kita adalah, dan selamanya merupakan Amerika Serikat".

Bagian selanjutnya dari pidato presiden terpilih itu memberikan pujian terhadap saingannya : "Beberapa saat sebelum malam ini, saya menerima telepon yang luar biasa ramah dari Senator McCain. Senator McCain berjuang keras dalam masa kampanye yang panjang. Bahkan sesungguhnya dia telah berjuang lebih keras dan lebih lama untuk negara yang dia cintai ini. Dia telah melakukan banyak pengorbanan untuk Amerika yang bahkan bagi sebagian besar kita tidak berani untuk membayangkannya.

*Bersambung ke halaman 3*

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## U.S. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITIONS: SECOND TERMS

### U.S. ELECTIONS

The roughly 75 days between a U.S. presidential election and the inauguration are as important to a second-term president as they are to a newly elected president, but the priorities are different.

A re-elected president is not under time pressure to fill a full slate of top government positions, but he likely will need to fill many of nearly 3,000 mid-level appointed positions as they become vacant. Some mid-level managers choose to pursue other jobs after gaining a few years of government experience. Others may retire.

The biggest challenge is finding the right people to fill those slots so that the business of government continues. Second-term presidents need a strong administration because they often face tougher challenges working with Congress, whose leaders are familiar with the president's ideas and negotiating style.

### HOW IS THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET CHOSEN?

Even a re-elected president will have some decisions to make about the 15 executive department leaders who, along with the vice president, make up the Cabinet. In addition, seven officials

in the Obama administration, such as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Trade Representative, hold Cabinet-rank positions. Some of these leaders will remain in their jobs, but others may leave or move to a different position, or the president may choose to replace them.

The Cabinet is the president's group of top policy advisers. The U.S. Constitution specifies the president "may require the opinion, in writing, of the

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## INAUGURATION CELEBRATES CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at an inaugural ball in 2009

Washington — When Barack Obama takes the oath of office on January 21, 2013, it will mark the 57th time that a U.S. president has been sworn in for a four-year term since 1789, when George Washington first took the same oath.

During that period, eight presidents died in office and one resigned; each time, the vice president took the same oath, and completed the four-year term.

Obama actually will have been sworn-in for a second term a day before the public ceremony. As has become tradition when the constitutionally mandated swearing-in, January 20, falls on a Sunday, the chief justice of the Supreme Court will administer the oath of office privately on January 20, then perform it in front of the crowd on the Capitol steps the next day.

Many inaugural events have been added since 1789, but the steps that the president-elect follows to take the constitutionally mandated oath of office, the central event of the inauguration, are essentially unchanged.

The oath will be administered at the U.S. Capitol, in a ceremony on the west front of the building, overlooking the National Mall, as it has been since 1801 when Thomas Jefferson was sworn in there. The Supreme Court chief justice first administered

the oath in 1797 to John Adams.

The swearing-in ceremony — televised since 1949 — will be attended by Obama's family, past and future Cabinet members, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, Supreme Court justices and many invited guests.

Joe Biden will be sworn in as vice president prior to Obama taking the oath of office. The vice presidential oath has been part of inauguration ceremonies only since 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt's second inauguration. Previously, the vice president was sworn in at a Senate ceremony because the Constitution designates the vice president as president of the Senate.

On January 21, Obama will stand before a judge — in this case Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts — and swear the 35-word oath prescribed in Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1933, sets the time and date for the presidential oath at noon on January 20. In the early days of the nation, when wintertime travel was difficult, inaugurations were held in March.

As in previous inaugural ceremonies, going back to that of George Washington, after taking the oath President Obama will give an inaugural address that outlines the themes for his second four-year term in office.

### OTHER INAUGURAL EVENTS

Many elements have been added to the inaugural program over time. President Obama's inauguration will follow the trend of recent years and feature dinners, balls, receptions and other events focused on the theme of "Faith in America's Future."

Following the noon swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol, Obama will deliver his inaugural address.

The president and vice president then will make their way from the Capitol back to the White House, where they will view a traditional parade that begins at the Capitol and follows a 2.7-kilometer route up Pennsylvania Avenue and past the White House.

In the evening there will be two formal inaugural balls. Typically, the first lady's gown for this evening is big news in the fashion world; the dress eventually will make its way into the Smithsonian Institution's collection of inaugural gowns.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/abdl3z7>

### MILESTONES: BARACK OBAMA



An interactive timeline of Barack Obama's life and career from the New York Times is available at

<http://tinyurl.com/39bb3a>

Related article:

Barack Obama; The New York Times, Jan 2, 2013. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/yt7q2u>

## TRANSITION FAQs

**Q.** What is the legal foundation for the transition process?

**A.** The Presidential Transition Acts of 1963 and 2000 [<http://tinyurl.com/aqdyog>] provide the legal framework giving the General Services Administration (GSA) a prominent role in this process. They authorize the administrator of GSA to provide the president-elect and the vice-president-elect the services and facilities needed to assume their official duties.

**Q.** Why is the inauguration held so long after the election?

**A.** Inaugurations were originally held on March 4 to allow plenty of time for the electors from each state to cast their ballots. The date was changed to January 20 by a constitutional amendment in 1933.

**Q.** Who handles the arrangements for the inauguration?

**A.** The General Services Administration provides support throughout the transition. For the inauguration, various military groups provide logistical support and participate in the ceremony. The Presidential Inaugural Committee decides the details, and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies handles most of the events at the Capitol.

**Q.** Are inaugurations always held in Washington, D.C.? When have they been held somewhere else?

**A.** Under normal circumstances, inaugurations are held on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. George Washington's first inauguration

(1789) was in New York City and his second in Philadelphia. Thomas Jefferson was the first president whose inauguration (1801) was in Washington, D.C., which had become the capital in June 1800. When there is an extraordinary transition, as upon the death of a president, the new president is sworn in as quickly as possible. For example, when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Lyndon Johnson was sworn in by a federal district judge aboard Air Force One (the presidential airplane), and upon the death of Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge was sworn in by his father, a notary public, at his family's homestead in Plymouth, Vermont.

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/bjopn3a>

## MORE RESOURCES

### Books and Audiobooks (available at IRC Library)

*Complete Book of U.S. Presidents, The* / William A. DeGregorio. Barricade Books, 2009.

*Greatest Presidential Speeches of Our Time, The* / Multiple Writers and Narrators. Phoenix Audiobooks, 2010.

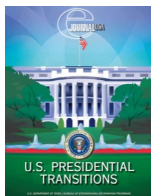
*How Barack Obama Won : A State-By-State Guide to the Historic 2008 Presidential Election* / Chuck Todd and Sheldon Gawiser. Vintage Books, 2009.

### eBooks (available through eLibraryUSA\*)

*Difficult Transitions : Foreign Policy Troubles at the Outset of Presidential Power* / Kurt M. Campbell and James B. Steinberg. Brookings Institution Press, 2008

*What Do We Do Now? : A Workbook for the President-Elect* / Stephen Hess. Brookings Institution Press, 2008

### ePublications



*eJournal USA: U.S. Presidential Transitions*. Department of State, 2009.

We often read or hear about turmoil before, during, or after elections around the world. An important characteristic of democracy in the United States, however, is the regularly recurring peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next. Link: <http://tinyurl.com/bavsa>

*eJournal USA: More Than Elections: How Democracies Transfer Power*. Department of State, 2012. Healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build. This eJournal USA explores the contours of civil society and political legitimacy within which peaceful transitions of power can occur. Link: <http://tinyurl.com/abyvsr7>

### Websites

The General Services Administration (GSA): 2012 Presidential Transition. Link <http://tinyurl.com/atq7xte>

U.S. Senate: Fifty-Seventh Presidential Inauguration, January 21, 2013. Link <http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/>

### eLibraryUSA\* Database

Gale Virtual Reference Library: Guide to the Presidency

Grolier Online: Inauguration Day

Academic OneFile: Presidential Transitions

\*eLibraryUSA provides access to 30 authoritative and updated databases on a wide range of subjects. To get access please request to: [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov).

## APA YANG TERJADI SETELAH PEMILU (sambungan dari halaman 1)

Kita telah menjadi lebih baik berkat kepemimpinannya yang melayani, berani dan tidak mementingkan dirinya sendiri."

### TRANSISI YANG SAH

Proses transisi dimulai dari pidato penutupan dari kandidat presiden yang kalah. Momen ini memainkan peranan yang sangat penting dimana kandidat presiden yang kalah menerima keabsahan hasil pemilu, dan memperbaharui komitmen partainya terhadap kemenangan di masa yang akan datang. Segera setelahnya, kandidat pemenang akan memberikan pidato penghargaan atas pidato lawan politiknya. Reaksi ini sebagai tanda kepada pendukung seluruh calon presiden bahwa mereka tetap dihargai sebagai bagian dari satu kesatuan pemerintahan nasional. Pada setiap pemilihan, walau bagaimanapun ketatnya persaingan itu, selalu diakhiri dengan ekspresi terhadap persatuan nasional.

Pemilihan umum di Amerika Serikat adalah momen perjuangan yang berat. Warga negara AS berharap bahwa pemilihan akan berlangsung adil dan hasilnya akan dihormati oleh seluruh kalangan, dengan proses transisi yang damai dari pemimpin sebelumnya kepada pemimpin berikutnya. Hal ini tidak hanya berlangsung pada pemilihan presiden tapi juga pada pemilihan anggota Kongres, pemilihan gubernur negara bagian dan anggota-anggota DPR, serta bagi pemilihan lokal lainnya.

Warga negara dapat menerima hasil pemilihan yang mengecewakan jika mereka mengetahui bahwa hukum telah diterapkan secara adil dan bahwa pendapat atau pandangan mereka mungkin akan terwakili pada pemilihan berikutnya. Hasil pemilihan diterima apabila warga negara melihat pemerintahan mereka adalah pemerintahan yang sah dan patuh pada hukum yang berlaku.

### TANTANGAN DALAM PERIODE TRANSISI

Selama kurang lebih 75 hari antara pemilihan dan pelantikan presiden baru Amerika Serikat, pemerintahan yang akan berakhir memberikan informasi terkini kepada presiden terpilih yang baru mengenai hal-hal penting di seputar keamanan nasional, hubungan luar negeri dan hal-hal lainnya. Informasi ini akan memberdayakan presiden terpilih yang baru untuk bisa mengeluarkan kebijakan-kebijakannya segera setelah beliau dilantik. Proses ini juga membantu presiden terpilih dalam menentukan pejabat-pejabat tingkat tinggi yang akan membantu pemerintahannya. Seorang presiden terpilih harus mengisi sekitar 7,000 posisi di badan eksekutif/pemerintahan dimana 1,200 diantaranya merupakan posisi yang paling penting-termasuk posisi para menteri dan posisi di bidang pertahanan dan keamanan – yang membutuhkan persetujuan Senat.

Masa transisi merupakan suatu tantangan dalam sistem politik manapun. Dalam kondisi demokrasi yang sehat, pemilihan yang adil dan proses transisi

yang berlangsung damai merefleksikan bahwa pihak yang kalah saat ini bisa menjadi pemenang pada pemilihan berikutnya. Pihak yang menang dan para pendukung mereka harus tetap responsif terhadap pendapat lawan politik mereka, sambil tetap mawas terhadap pemilihan umum di masa mendatang.

Pihak yang kalah dan para pendukungnya bisa memfokuskan diri pada kemungkinan yang terjadi saat ini dan masa mendatang, dan tidak berkat pada kekalahan sebelumnya. Kepercayaan bahwa hukum dan peraturan akan berpihak kepada mereka di masa pemilihan berikutnya, membuat mereka lebih mudah menerima pemerintahan baru dan tidak mengambil jalan kekerasan.

Pejabat yang kalah dalam pemilihan akan melepaskan wewenang mereka secara tenang dan damai. Dengan melakukan hal itu, mereka tetap menjaga martabat baik-nya dan teladan ini akan membuat tradisi demokrasi negara menjadi semakin kuat. Sebaliknya bagi kandidat pemenang, dengan memperlihatkan rasa hormat terhadap lawan politik akan menjembatani beragam perbedaan dan meminimalkan potensi konflik yang dapat merusak tatanan demokrasi.

Sumber: Pamphlet IIP Digital 2012. Versi bahasa Inggris tersedia di: <http://tinyurl.com/d8o8233>

Lihat juga "21 Januari 2013: Inagurasi Presiden Amerika Serikat ke 57" di tautan <http://tinyurl.com/dyw9cgg>



## U.S. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITIONS: SECOND TERMS *(continued from page 1)*

principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices." The Cabinet usually meets with the president at least weekly.

The president can dismiss Cabinet members as he pleases. They also are expected to resign when a new president takes office, but some presidents invite selected Cabinet members from the previous administration to remain.

A Cabinet member cannot be a member of Congress, a sitting governor or a member of the president's immediate family. The president nominates Cabinet members, but the Senate must confirm them before they get the job. Sitting Cabinet members do not need to be re-confirmed.

The number of positions requiring Senate confirmation has grown considerably over time, and the confirmation process can be lengthy. In August 2012, to help speed up the process of filling appointed positions, President Obama signed a law that removed 166 senior-level positions from Senate approval.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO POLITICAL APPOINTEES (INCOMING AND EXITING)?

At the level below Cabinet members are politically appointed executives in dozens of large, complex agencies. These are the people who work with the "career" (civil service, foreign service and military) leaders to run the federal government. Others are appointed to support positions — advisers and aides — whose duties may involve advocating administration policies and programs.

According to *U.S. Government Policy and Support-*

*ing Positions* (informally called the "Plum Book"), a document printed every four years following a presidential election, a total of nearly 9,000 positions in the federal government can be appointed by a president or his administration. Of those, about 800 must be confirmed by the Senate. Even a second-term president spends a great deal of time getting his administration in place.

Anyone in these appointed positions may be replaced if the president, or one of his agency heads, chooses. While turnover is lower in a second term than in a new administration, transition means spending time on filling vacancies. One study has found that the average time on the job for political appointees is 2.5 years, with 25 percent staying fewer than 18 months. From election until the last days in office, filling executive and judicial posts is a regular part of the president's job.

### LIFE AFTER THE PRESIDENCY

When an outgoing president and family depart the White House, usually around 10:45 a.m. each January 20, a team of White House workers begins a precisely organized transformation. In only a few hours, they move the outgoing family's possessions out of — and the incoming family's belongings into — the 132-room presidential mansion. Former presidents retain certain privileges, including staff and office allowances, travel expenses, Secret Service protection and medical treatment at military hospitals.

Former presidents and other elected government leaders often stay active in areas of interest to them; greater name recognition affords presidents much attention and often power.

After one four-year term marked by international crises, Jimmy Carter was not re-elected, but he went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize for devoting his life to human rights issues and reducing suffering around the world. Bill Clinton has established several charitable foundations to address international issues and has served as a U.N. special envoy to Haiti. Other ex-presidents chose to lead quiet lives out of the public eye.

It has become customary for the official works and personal memorabilia of presidents to be preserved in libraries endowed for that purpose. After he died in office, gifts Franklin Roosevelt received as president, as well as many of his personal papers, were donated to establish a library in his name. Harry Truman adopted the practice and now the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration manages 12 presidential libraries.

President George H.W. Bush, who turned 88 in June 2012, wrote a book about foreign policy but tended to avoid the public spotlight while his son, George W. Bush, was president. A notable exception occurred when the elder Bush worked closely with Bill Clinton, who defeated him in 1992, to raise funds for victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton partnered in 2010 to raise funds following a devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Thomas Jefferson established the University of Virginia; John Quincy Adams served in Congress; and George Washington became a brewer and a gardener. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the Fourth of July, 1826. James Monroe died July 4, 1831.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/a3qxbna>

### Contact Info:

Information Resource Center (IRC)  
Public Affairs Section  
U.S. Embassy Jakarta

Address:  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5,  
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

Tel.: (021) 350-8467  
Fax: (021) 350-8466

Email: [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov)  
Website: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

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